

CENTENNIAL PLAN FOR THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL
FORESTS: 1891-1991

Theodore J. Karamanski



WAPITI RANGER STATION — SHOSHONE NAT'L. FOREST

CENTENNIAL PLAN

FOR THE

UNITED STATES NATIONAL FORESTS

1891 - 1991



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Director *[Signature]*
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CENTENNIAL PLAN

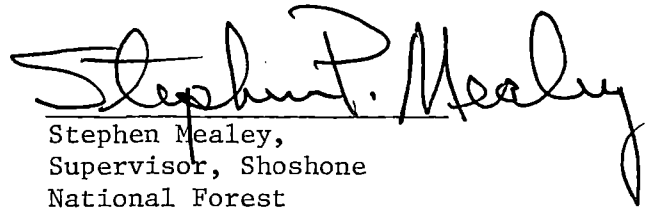
UNITED STATES NATIONAL FORESTS

1891 - 1991

Submitted by:

Theodore J. Karamanski,
Director, Mid-American
Research Center

Accepted by:



Stephen Mealey,
Supervisor, Shoshone
National Forest

Prepared by the :

Mid-American Research Center, Loyola University of Chicago,
In Partial Fulfillment of Contract: R2-14-7-31 for the Shoshone
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CENTENNIAL PLAN--UNITED STATES NATIONAL FORESTS , 1891-1991

Introduction

This a preliminary document designed to stimulate program planning for the upcoming centennial of the United States National Forests. It outlines : A) The reasons for commemorating this centennial, B) The goals of the centennial celebration, C) It details a comprehensive package of centennial programs.

What Is The Significance Of 1891?

On March 30, 1891, with no ceremony nor celebration, the United States took its first tentative steps toward a national forest system. President Benjamin Harrison, acting on the recommendation of his Secretary of the Interior, John W. Noble, set aside a giant tract of land adjacent to Yellowstone National Park. Although few realized it at the time, the President's proclamation marked the beginning of a new phase of the conservation movement.¹

By 1891 the concept of natural resource conservation was gaining wide acceptance in the United States. Sportsmen, professional foresters, and scientists realized that America's natural abundance was not limitless. They knew continued access to forest products, grazing lands, and big game in the future was contingent upon wise use of available land in the present. Yet the federal government was slow to commit to this new policy of managed use. Yellowstone National Park had been set aside in 1872, and Yosemite (earlier a state park) became a national park in 1890. But save for these monumental landscapes the public domain was open to disastrously unregulated exploitation. The cycle of logging and forest fires which devastated the pineries of the Great Lakes region was already underway in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific timberlands. The winter of 1886-87 when thousands of cattle died of starvation on the open range demonstrated the tragic consequences of allowing public grasslands to become overstocked. There was a Division of Forestry in the Department of Agriculture, but it had too little resources to offer any real leadership. Some states, such as New York, which in 1885 established the Adirondack Preserve, acted on their own. Most states, however, particularly those in the west, lacked the authority, as well as the inclination to manage their own forests and ranges.

¹ The authors of this plan are mindful that 1891 is only one of several important dates in the evolution of both federal forestry and the American conservation movement. The Forest Reserves Act, however, was the practical, if not the technical, beginning of the National Forest System.

Federal action may have been needed by 1891, but Congress was not disposed to respond to the nascent conservation movement. Nonetheless, federal forestry was begun that year, because of a clever legislative slight of hand effected by John W. Noble. At a conference committee meeting which had dragged on past midnight the Secretary of the Interior convinced a weary group of legislators to add to an already mammoth bill a rider giving the President the power to create forest reserves for conservation purposes. Both houses of Congress, in their haste to adjourn, later approved the bill. It is doubtful that more than a handful ever knew they had just passed the forest reserves act for which the conservationists had called. On March 3, 1891 Benjamin Harrison signed the act. The first reserve was declared in what is now Wyoming on March 30, 1891. This land later became part of the Shoshone National Forest, the Targhee National Forest, and the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

The Forest Reserve Act, which Bernard Fernow rightly referred to as a "feeble rider", nonetheless marked an historic reversal of federal land policy. Previous to 1891 government policy was based on the disposal of public lands. After 1891 the federal government gradually became a permanent custodian of the nation's watersheds, timber supply, grasslands, wildlife, and outdoor recreation lands. Although the 1891 Act did nothing to provide for the administration of the national forest reserves it did set into motion a commitment which made necessary the 1905 legislation which created the Forest Service. The Forest Reserve Act of 1891 was the practical beginning of conservation, not as a political or intellectual movement, but as a federal management policy.

Goals Of The Centennial Celebration

The National Forests of the United States are the physical embodiment of an idea: conservation. This idea has grown and changed as much as the national forests themselves. Conservation has meant different things at different times in our past and to this day the word can be interpreted quite divergently. As President William H. Taft once said, "there are a great many people in favor of conservation, no matter what it means". The Forest Service has generally defined conservation as "wise use". It has advocated the scientific management and controlled development of resources. On the other side of conservation's great schism are the preservationists who largely reject utilitarianism and advocate wilderness (ironically, 1991 will not only be the centennial of the national forests but of the Sierra Club as well). The public's ambivalence about these competing definitions is perhaps best seen in the American Heritage Dictionary, which defines conservation as: "Preservation from loss, waste, or harm, esp. the official preservation of natural resources". In spite of this confusion, perhaps because of it,

discussion of the concept of conservation should be central to the centennial celebration.

Since 1891 we have seen a dramatic shift in the public's attitude toward the American environment and their expectations from conservation agencies. In Gifford Pinchot's time this largely meant watershed protection and forest products. In the late twentieth century the public looks to forest lands much more as a source of what historian Samuel P. Hays refers to as "pleasure, relaxation, and inspiration". As early as 1891 the word wilderness began to lose its negative connotation and in the light of America's closing frontier gradually came to be seen as part of our natural heritage. More recently changing public values have encouraged new management strategies for wetlands, deserts, prairies, and pine barrens. At the same time few of the economic expectations implicit in the "wise use" of the national forests have slackened. The Centennial can be a vehicle for heightening the public's consciousness that conservation planning has historically meant making choices.

Today the demands placed upon America's national forest are greater than ever before--and we can expect pressure to intensify in future. The choices before forest supervisors today are not simple decisions between protecting the environment and unrestrained exploitation. Such a simplistic dichotomy reflects a cliched and flawed reading of conservation's past and provides no insight into the future. The difficult choices that land management agencies face today are conflicts between competing social goods. Such conflicts cannot be wholly resolved even by the most sophisticated management approach because of the moral conflict implicit in competing good policies. For the next century the national forests will require a new conservation ethic to guide choices among the possible wise uses of our increasingly scarce resources.

A new conservation ethic can only emerge from a broad based national debate of what has constituted wise use in the past, what are the challenges to this approach in the present, and most important of all, what future do we as a people desire for the next century of federal forestry. The specific proposals presented below call for programs on the national, regional, and local level to achieve the following goals:

Goal One: To heighten public consciousness of the idea of natural resource conservation; its historical evolution, its current practice, and the challenges of the future.

Goal Two: To promote dialogue within the conservation community, among managers, academicians, and public interest groups concerning the future of the National Forest system.

Goal Three: To encourage the integration of conservation history and issues into the social studies and natural science curriculum of the secondary schools.

Goal Four: To increase the personal effectiveness of Forest Service personnel by enhancing their appreciation of the intellectual, cultural, and historical framework within which conservation policy is determined.

Goal Five: To develop widespread public awareness and understanding of the multiple-use mandate under which the National Forests are managed and the legitimate differences between the mission of the National Forests and that of other land management agencies.

Centennial Task Force

The management and direction of the centennial celebration will be the job of a specially constituted task force. This group will contain representatives of the Forest Service, other appropriate agencies, conservation organizations, and leading academic institutions. The task force, through its subcommittees and staff, will approve all centennial activities, prepare scopes of work for any contract work, oversee all projects, approve all final products, and prepare a final report on the centennial.

The basic program work of the task force will be carried out through subcommittees. Every centennial project will have a specific subcommittee responsible for the direct oversight and implementation of its charge. These subcommittees will include at least one task force member as well as relevant professionals from outside the task force.

The direct oversight of all features of the Centennial Plan will be the responsibility of the task forces staff. The task force will be assigned an Executive Secretary and at least part time use of a word processor/receptionist. The Executive Secretary will be a critical figure in the overall success of the centennial celebration. This individual will coordinate the activities of the task force and its subcommittees and will be the authorized agency representative for any contracts let, as well as serve as a vital link for the diverse series of centennial activities.

The task force itself should be composed of representatives of the following individuals or organizations:

- *USDA Forest Service
- *Forest History Office
- *Society of American Foresters
- *Forest History Society
- *American Forestry Association
- *National Audubon Society
- *Wilderness Society
- *National Council on Public History

- *National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni
- *Field and Stream Magazine.
- *Boone and Crocket Club.
- *Distinguished Individuals chosen by the Chief, USDA Forest Service

Estimated Cost: \$290,000 (Task Force and Committee staff and travel costs)

National Level Centennial Programs

1. Inaugural Centennial Program.

The kick-off event for the National Forest Centennial should be in one of the original 1891 National Forests. On March 30, 1991, one hundred years to the day that the first forests were reserved, we recommend that there be a commemorative celebration in Cody, Wyoming, headquarters of the Shoshone National Forest. The Centennial Task Force will appoint a subcommittee to plan the details of the program. It is recommended, however, that this event begin with a reception on March 29 at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, which will display a special exhibit on Conservation Art. The next morning a symposium will begin at the Center. A keynote address by the chief, USDA Forest Service will be followed by three presentations on the theme "Conservation, Scarcity and the American Mind." The address by the Chief, and the presentations which follow him, are important elements in setting the tone for the regional conferences to follow. Participants will then share a luncheon before being bused on to the forest, where a plaque commemorating the anniversary of the National Forests will be laid.

Estimated Cost: \$16,000

2. "The National Forests: An American Heritage". This will be a series of 60/30 second video productions to be aired during commercial breaks on national television. The theme of the presentations will be the choices which have shaped, and will shape the past, present, and the future of America's forests. The videos will be "hosted" by a well known media personality who will introduce the topic, do voice-over narrative of documentary footage, and offer a brief concluding summary. The series will be aired in March 1991. A new "spot" will appear each week. March is suggested because it was during that month, one hundred

years ago, that both the Forest Reserve Act was passed and the first national forests were created. It is recommended that all major public programs take place after these "spots" have aired so that they can be used to build public interest in the centennial.

Objective: To confront a broad spectrum of the American public with the idea of conservation, the history of resource management, and the environmental challenges of the future.

Estimated Cost: \$50,000 to \$700,000

3. A Congressional Resolution officially declaring 1991 the anniversary of the National Forest System.

Objective: To expand the public's consciousness of the importance of the centennial and to build legislative support for centennial expenditures by the Department of Agriculture.

4. A National Forest Centennial Stamp.

A commemorative postage stamp which recognizes the 100th anniversary of the National Forest System would be a very effective vehicle to promote the centennial.

The steps to nominate a commemorative U.S. Postal Stamp are straight-forward and are described in detail in an appended document, "Postal Service Emphasizes Stamp Subject Criteria" (see appendix A). However, after having had discussions with postal authorities we can offer several additional suggestions to smooth the process of making the stamp a reality. In the nomination write-up the authors should stress national forests as a natural resource, not as a federal agency. Many other federal agencies will be celebrating their centennials in the near future and the Post Office is reluctant to "favor" one over any other. However, if the national significance of the resources of the national forests are stressed than this problem can be avoided.

Efforts to have a "National Forest Commemorative Stamp" must begin immediately as it normally takes 2-3 years to have a stamp approved, designed, printed, publicized and distributed. Unfortunately, the Postal Office cannot tell the group backing a particular stamp that it has been accepted more than six to nine months before it is issued. Thus, even if successful, the subcommittee working on the stamp will not be able to have the stamp until very near the centennial. It will not be possible to use the stamp to build long term interest in the centennial.

One reason to be optimistic concerning the prospect of a centennial stamp is the past success of the "Smokey the Bear" stamp.

Objective: A commemorative stamp will alert a wide variety of American's to the nation's long standing commitment to natural resource conservation.

5. Forest History Office.

The centennial of the national forest system will create new demands on the Forest History Office within the USDA Forest Service. In order for these history professionals to continue their important on-going work and still serve those working on centennial projects, both within and outside the agency, it will be necessary to expand the Forest History Office's staff. It is recommended that beginning in 1990 an additional professional historian be employed by the agency.

Objective: To ensure effective guidance of regional history initiatives and to provide professional forest history consultation to the public.

6. Conservation Curriculum Unit.

Who will direct our national forests during the next century? Of course, it will be the young people who are now in our primary and secondary schools. In order to ensure that they are challenged by the difficult decisions which are part of conservation, we propose that the task force devote considerable energy to the preparation and distribution of a centennial curriculum unit. The curriculum unit, which should be aimed at eleventh grade students, should be composed of two parts:

A) A thirty minute video production which documents the evolution of conservation and the National Forest System. The production should place conservation in a historical context as well as raise enduring conflicts such as the clash between conservation and preservation, or conservation and economic development. The video could also be used for broadcast on public television as part of the centennial.

B) A teacher's guide to the video. This guide should include: an outline of the video, supplementary information which can be made into handouts for the students, lesson plans to help the teacher prepare supporting lectures or discussions, questions for examination or for essays, and finally, an annotated bibliography.

Objective: To promote an understanding of conservation among secondary school students and to assist teachers in preparing young people for public responsibilities.

Estimated Cost: \$70,000

7. "Reinterpreting Forest History Conference"

A national conference should be sponsored, either in Washington by the Forest Service or at a leading forest research center, such as Duke University. The propose of the gathering would be to generate new perspectives on the evolution of American forest and conservation history. In recent years the Forest Service has completed a series of administrative histories of its ten regions. These projects marked the completion of forest history's necessary formative stage. The centennial of the national forests is a fitting time to call for a new direction in the study of environmental history. The conference would encourage new theoretical and interdisciplinary approaches. The conference would be directed by a subcommittee of the task force which would be composed of leading forest history scholars. This subcommittee would invite contributions from scientists and humanists, including political economists, philosophers, and anthropologists. The best papers from this conference would later be edited and collected in a book. If properly managed, this conference should be a landmark event in environmental studies.

Objective: To stimulate and disseminate original thinking on American conservation policy. By reinterpreting the past in light of our current condition we can better prepare the intellectual foundation for future forest planning.

Estimated Cost: \$22,000

Regional Level Centennial Programs

1. "The Past, Present, and Future of the National Forests:"
A Series of Regional Symposia.

The Centennial Task Force will form a series of subcommittees to organize public symposia in each of the ten Forest Service regions. These programs will bring the expanded consciousness of conservation and the national forests, which will be fostered by the centennial, to the regional level. These symposia will present case studies of successful and unsuccessful conservation choices made in the past and also highlight the challenges which we will face in the future.

The regional symposia should be planned in conjunction with state and regional chapters of the Society of American Foresters, local humanities councils, the C.C.C. alumni, as well as the regional office. The program should include agency employees, scholars, and the representatives of interest groups such as the Audubon Society or the Sierra Club, as well as stock growers and forest products companies. The program for these symposium should reflect regional problems discussed by people from the region.

Objective: To generate a dialogue between the agency and the

people of a region over the impact of conservation in the past and the choices we face in the future.

Estimated Cost: \$160,000

2. Centennial Preservation Fund and Forest History Internship Program.

A special fund should be created by the Forest Service to encourage regional programs to preserve agency historical resources. There are two specific types of resources at risk: written records and oral history. In numerous forests, valuable historical records, which document early timber management activities, cooperative efforts, or recreation planning, lie in garages or warehouses. These records often suffer environmental damage and are at constant risk of either disposal or accidental destruction. Such collections of records should be identified, organized, and, at least preliminarily, described. Equally as pressing is the need for an expanded Forest Service oral history program. The expansion of the Forest Service during the period between 1920 and 1970 was of historical importance to the history of conservation in America. Many individuals who played a vital role in the history of individual forest are now retired or are approaching that age. The oral memoirs of those people should be collected so that future historians can fully document conservation history.

A Centennial Preservation Fund would be administered by the Forest History Office and would provide small grants, \$3000 to \$5000, to individual forest regions who wished to undertake a partial records survey or an oral history project. The funds would go to Forest History interns, graduate students in history, or archives who had already taken specific course work in those subjects. The grants would fund work as a summer internship project. The program would strengthen ties between academic programs and regional offices as well as provide an inexpensive and supplemental source of professional expertise.

Objective: Preserve vital sources of the agency's corporate memory for internal and academic research. Encourage young scholars to research forest history. Promote historical consciousness among forest service staff on the regional and forest level.

Estimated Cost: \$90,000

3.

The organization, appearance and performance, at the Regional level, of select groups of skilled horseback riders to be known as the U.S. Forest Service Centennial Riders. These equestrian units would perform at public

events and major parades such as the Tournament of Roses in Pasadena, the Rose Festival Parade in Portland, Macy's Parade in New York City, and the Frontier Days Parade in Cheyenne. Each appearance would include a Forest Service Centennial message.

Objective: Heighten public awareness of the Forest Service, its mission and heritage.

Estimated Cost: \$1,000,000

Local Level Centennial Programs

1. Visitor Center Programs.

Visitors to all National Forests should be reminded that 1991 is the centennial of the National Forests. Therefore, we recommend the following material be made available to each forest.

A). Historical Video -- A documentary video should be prepared for use in all visitor centers as an interpretive program. The video should be brief, about fifteen minutes, but fast paced and well produced. It should present the evolution of conservation in America, and the growth of the National Forests, with an emphasis on the need to make land use choices.

Estimated Cost: \$40,000

B). Centennial Posters -- An attractive poster announcing the centennial should be prominently displayed at all forest level facilities and should be sold at each visitor center.

C). Centennial Patches -- A cloth patch should be designed for the centennial, perhaps modeled after the commemorative stamp. Such patches are popular among young people and outdoorsmen. By selling these at visitor centers, the agency will help foster interest in conservation and the national forests.

D). Commemorative pamphlet and brief history of the national forest system should also be available at the USFS Visitor Centers and forest headquarters. It should be a succinct and lively account of the role of the conservation efforts and traditions of the Forest Service.

Objective: To ensure awareness of the centennial and reflection on conservation as an issue among all forest visitors.

Conclusion

Centennials provide a rare opportunity to reflect on the past, prepare for the future and publicly take pride for enduring success. The centennial of the Forest Reserve Act of 1891 gives the Forest Service a chance to honor not its success as an agency, but instead conservation as a program. By honoring and celebrating the National Forest System, and the idea they represent, the Forest Service will be furthering its mandated goal of encouraging public participation in forest activities. However, decisive action upon this plan is urged. The centennial is quickly approaching. Several actions urged by this plan, such as the commemorative stamp and the creation of the Task Force, should already be underway if they are to be fully effective. Time has created this opportunity and it will steadily move to take it away.

Total Cost

\$2,000,000 (estimatable costs including those for an art and history exhibition.)

Appendix A

POSTAL SERVICE EMPHASIZES STAMP SUBJECT CRITERIA

The U.S. Postal Service and the members of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) have affirmed and updated certain basic criteria used in determining the eligibility of subjects for commemoration on U.S. stamps and stationery. These criteria first were formulated about the time of Postal Reorganization in the early 1970s, and have been refined and expanded gradually since then.

Following are the 10 major areas now guiding commemorative subjects selection. Recently added criteria (items number 1, 8, 9 and 10) basically state policies that only were implied before.

1. It is a general policy that U.S. postage stamps and stationery primarily will feature American or American-related subjects.
2. No living person shall be honored by portrayal on U.S. postage.
3. Commemorative stamps or postal stationery items honoring individuals usually will be issued on, or in conjunction with, significant anniversaries of their birth, but no postal item will be issued sooner than 10 years after the individual's death. The only exception to the 10-year rule is the issuance of stamps honoring deceased U.S. Presidents. A former President may be honored with a memorial stamp on the first birth anniversary following his death.
4. Events of historical significance shall be considered for commemoration only on anniversaries in multiples of 50 years.
5. Only events and themes of widespread national appeal and significance will be considered for commemoration. Events or themes of local or regional significance may be recognized by a philatelic or special postal cancellation, which may be arranged through the local postmaster.

The selection of subjects for U.S. postage stamps and postal stationery is a difficult task, since only a limited number of new commemorative items can be issued annually. To help in this selection process, the Postmaster General established the CSAC over 25 years ago to recommend subjects and designs.

Members are appointed to the CSAC by the Postmaster General. They represent expertise in American art, business, history, technology, culture and philately.

Once a subject is approved, the Postal Service relies to a great extent on the design coordinators for the Advisory Committee in selecting artists to execute the designs. Stamp designing is an unusual art form requiring exacting skill in portraying a subject within very small dimensions. Due to the demands of stamp design and reproduction requirements, unsolicited artwork rarely is used and is not encouraged.

However, unsolicited artwork which is received by the Postal Service is reviewed by the Advisory Committee at its next scheduled meeting. After review, the artwork is retained by the Postal Service for 30 days, after which it will be returned only if specifically requested by the person submitting it.

While the Postal Service relies heavily upon the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, it has the exclusive and final authority to determine both subject matter and designs for U.S. postage stamps and postal stationery.

Appendix B

POSSIBLE FUNDING SOURCES .

1. United States Department of Agriculture.

2. Mellon (Richard King) Foundation.
525 William Penn Place,
Pittsburgh 15219

3. Lindbergh (Charles A.) Fund.
Grants Office,
Box O,
Summit, New Jersey 07901

4. Rockefeller Brothers Fund.
1290 Avenue of the Americas,
New York, NY 10104

APPENDIX C

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

July 1, 1988	Appoint Centennial Task Force. Appoint Executive Secretary. Apply for Centennial Stamp.
July 30, 1988	Executive Secretary prepares a budget for 1988-89 planning.
September 1, 1988	Convene Centennial Task Force, review budget.
September 25, 1988	Appoint subcommittees for: Conservation Curriculum Unit. Inaugural Centennial Program. "The National Forests: An American Heritage".
January, 1989	Appoint subcommittees for: Reinterpreting Forest History Conference. Regional Symposia. Visitor Center Video. Centennial Poster and Patch.
February, 1989	Executive Secretary prepares budget for 1989-90.
March 15, 1989	Task Force Meeting to review budget and review subcommittee reports.
April 15, 1989	Centennial Congressional Resolution for 1991 proposed.
May 1, 1989	RFP's issued for: "National Forests: An American Her- itage" Video. Curriculum Video. Visitor Center Video.
July 30, 1989	Contracts issued for the video pro- jects. RFP's issued for Centennial graphic design: poster and patch.
September 15, 1989	Contracts issued for graphic design.
November 1, 1989	Task Force Meeting to review subcom- mittee reports.

January 15, 1990	Forest History Office adds an additional professional staff: this person will prepare the centennial historical brochure for visitor center distribution.
January 30, 1990	Appoint subcommittee on Centennial Preservation Fund and Forest History Internship Program.
February, 1990	Executive Secretary prepares budget for 1990-1991.
March 15, 1990	Task Force meeting to review budget and hear subcommittee reports. Preliminary programs for regional and national conferences are presented.
June, 1990	Conservation Curriculum Unit is reviewed by Executive Secretary and subcommittee.
August, 1990	Publicity and distribution of curriculum unit begins.
September, 1990	Task Force meeting to review: centennial graphic designs, video features.
October, 1990	Forest History Graduate Internship announced.
January, 1991	Executive Secretary prepares 1991 budget.
March 3, 1991	First "National Forests: An American Heritage" video on TV.
March 10, 1991	Second video on TV.
March 17, 1991	Third video on TV.
March 24, 1991	Fourth video on TV.
March 29-30, 1991	Inaugural Centennial Program, hosted by: Shoshone National Forest/Buffalo Bill Center.
March 30, 1991	Centennial Stamp issued.
April, 1991	Forest History Internships awarded.

April, 1991	Region 3 and Region 5 Programs
May, 1991	Region 4 and Region 8 Programs
June, 1991	Region 6 Program.
July, 1991	Region 1 Program.
August, 1991	Region 10 Program.
September, 1991	Region 2 Program.
October, 1991	Region 9 Program.
November, 1991	Reinterpreting Forest History Conference.
February, 1992	Centennial Task Force meeting: Review Executive Secretary's report and subcommittee reports. Remaining centennial functions are assumed by the Forest History Office.
June, 1992	Revised drafts of papers "Reinterpret- ing" conference are submitted.
November, 1992	Manuscript of the book <u>Reinterpreting Forest History</u> is completed and sub- mitted to an academic press.

APPENDIX D

Introduction

From April 16, 1988 to May 16, 1988 this report was circulated for comment among selected National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region. Below are a series of program suggestions which were recommended. The authors of this report (Timothy Cochrane and Theodore Karamanski) did not feel qualified to either accept or reject these program options. Therefore we have arranged these ideas below.

*A feature video production was suggested by several respondents. Ideas for this production ran the gamut from a full blown mini-series which would dramatize the struggles of people like Gifford Pinchot and John Muir, to a more straightforward series of historical documentaries which would trace the evolution of American conservation.

*Smokey the Bear comic books which would cover the history of the Forest Service.

*Hold a national competition for a artistic design to be used in the promotion of the Centennial.

Conclusion

Almost every respondent commented on the groups to be represented on the Centennial Task Force. Clearly this is an area of disagreement and the arrangement of this body should be carefully reviewed by the Office of the Chief. In our view the Task Force is a working group that will ensure public input into the Centennial celebration. It should be composed of individuals who are experienced with the type of programs that are going to be executed, and who are knowledgeable about the conservation issues past and present.

APPENDIX E

Steven Mealey
Shoshone National Forest
225 W. Yellowstone Ave.
Cody, WY 82414

June 12, 1988

SHOSHONE N.F.
Received

6861

cc: Rangers
cc: WCC

Dear Steve:

Thank you for coming by yesterday to discuss the National Forests Centennial. We are looking forward to playing a role in the celebration.

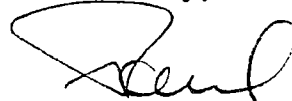
One of the ways in which we can best apply our experience and expertise, of course, is in the planning and presentation of an exhibition. An art and history exhibition of the sort we envision would be of national, perhaps international importance. It could open here in March, 1991, and we would expect it to travel to four or five other venues through 1992. It should be accompanied by a scholarly and illustrated catalogue which might be a prelude and a companion volume to whatever publication might result from centennial symposia. The exhibition would very likely draw on many other collections besides our own. Today is none to soon to begin work on such a show and to place it on the exhibition schedules of appropriate museums nationwide.

There are two things we should try to accomplish immediately. First, we should try to identify a guest curator who can complement our own expertise with special knowledge of forestry and conservation and an awareness of relevant collections of art and artifacts. The guest curator would not only help us to prepare a budget and to develop the exhibition, he or she would also contribute a significant essay to the resulting catalogue.

Second, we need as soon as possible to identify possible sources of funding. The costs of creating a major exhibition for travel are not negligible. As an example, Merrill Lynch has committed \$650,000 to "Frederic Remington: The Masterworks" which will be exhibited this year in four cities, including Cody.

The preliminary prospectus for the National Forests Centennial seems to be well thought out and creative. The final product will be an excellent planning document, and we look forward to its publication. In the meantime, I hope to see you again soon to identify key people and set our sights for 1991.

Sincerely,



Paul Fees, Curator
Buffalo Bill Museum

PF:sh

BUFFALO BILL
HISTORICAL
CENTER

BUFFALO BILL MUSEUM
WINCHESTER ARMS MUSEUM
PLAINS INDIAN MUSEUM
WHITNEY GALLERY OF
WESTERN ART

P.O. BOX 1000 CODY, WYOMING 82414
(307) 587-4771